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INFO OCT-01 NEA-07 ADS-00 CA-01 PPT-01 I-03 /019 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9531

INFO US INS WASHDC

US INS DISTRICT DIRECTOR NEW YORK

US INS DISTRICT DIRECTOR CHICAGO

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 11223

ATTN: CA/OCS/CCS/NEA - PPT/O/E

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: CPAS

SUBJECT: QUESTIONABLE CITIZENSHIP
BLACK HEBREW COMMUNITY

REF: (A) TEL AVIV 23753; (B) STATE 457037

WITHIN THE PAST TWO WEEKS, SEVERAL DISENCHANTED WOMEN FROM THE BLACK HEBREW COMMUNITY HAVE INDEPENDENTLY ASSERTED THAT MANY NON-AMERICANS LIVE IN THE DIMONA AREA UNDER THE TUTELAGE OF THE BLACK HEBREW LEADER, BEN AMI CARTER. THE NATIONALITIES REPORTEDLY LIVING IN DIMONA ARE FROM SOUTH AFRICA, JAMAICA, LIBYA, KENYA AND CITIZENS FROM OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES. EACH OF THE WOMEN INTERVIEWED MAINTAINS THAT CONFISCATED U.S. PASSPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY ARE USED FOR TRAVEL BY NON-AMERICANS AS WELL AS MEMBERS WHO ARE AMERICAN FUGITIVES FROM THE LAW. (PPTTEL A). THE EMBASSY IS AWARE OF THE FACT THAT UPON ENTRY INTO THE BLACK HEBREW COMMUNITY, EACH MEMBER MUST RELINQUISH HIS PASSPORT. DURING THE YEARS, AS INDIVIDUALS WISH TO LEAVE THE COMMUNITY, THEY HAVE APPLIED AT THE CITIZENSHIP SECTION

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FOR A REPLACEMENT PASSPORT. THE EMBASSY INITIATED A POLICY THAT ALL SUCH REPLACEMENT PASSPORTS MUST BE VERIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT BEFORE ISSUANCE. ADDRESSEES SHOULD NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THE CONFISCATED PASSPORTS MAY BE USED BY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO FRAUDULENTLY ENTER THE UNITED STATES. WE ARE UNAWARE AS TO WHEN OR HOW MANY. ANOTHER TREND HAS ALSO DEVELOPED DURING THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS. SEVERAL YOUNG FORMER BLACK HEBREW WOMEN HAVE REQUESTED PASSPORTS FOR CHILDREN BORN SINCE THE MOTHERS' ARRIVAL IN ISRAEL.

THE CHILDREN ARE BORN IN DIMONA ATTENDED ONLY BY MIDWIVES OF THE BLACK HEBREW COMMUNITY. MOST CONTEND THAT THEY DO NOT KNOW WHO THE MIDWIVES WERE WHO ASSISTED DURING DELIVERY. NOR CAN THEY READILY ENLIST FELLOW BLACK HEBREW ASSOCIATES TO VERIFY THE PARENTAGE OF THE CHILDREN. ALTHOUGH MOST MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY ARE BLACK AMERICANS

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY JL DATE 8/18/81

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TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____

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PRIMARILY FROM THE CHICAGO AREA. THE INCREASE IN SUCH
BIRTH REPORTS AND THE RECENT TESTIMONY REGARDING OTHER
NATIONALS LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY CAUSE US CONCERN.
THE EMBASSY SHARES THIS GENERAL INFORMATION TO ADDRESSEES
TO ALERT THE DIFFERENT AGENCIES OF POSSIBLE FRAUD PROBLEMS.
STRICT INSPECTION OF PASSPORTS AND BEARERS UPON ENTRANCE
TO THE UNITED STATES IS SUGGESTED. FURTHERMORE, WHENEVER
POSSIBLE THE EMBASSY IS ADOPTING A POLICY OF DOCUMENTING
A CHILD OF QUESTIONABLE PARENTAGE THROUGH THE I' AELI
AUTHORITIES (AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATION REGARDING
THE BIRTH) PRIOR TO PASSPORT ISSUANCE. LEWIS
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